

Retirement is nowhere in this barber's immediate plans. He plans to continue to pass on his profession to aspiring barbers. Perhaps that is because Avara's job is not just his profession; it is his life's passion.

It's what he does for recreation and relaxation. "I love it," he says. "I have no hobbies. I have a set of golf clubs in the garage. I'm not saying that I'll work every day like I do now, but I can't sit around and visualize working the boob tube. To be healthy, you have to be active and think young."

For Avara, that translates to continuing to hold a pair of shears in hand. He estimates so far, he's cut a hundred thousand heads of hair or more, and he's not planning to stop anytime soon.

THE VICTORY JUNCTION GANG CAMP

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, today I would like to bring to your attention the opening of a wonderful new children's camp in Level Cross, NC.

After years of planning, Kyle Petty, CEO of Petty Enterprises, and his wife Pattie have opened The Victory Junction Gang Camp. This camp is the seventh of the Hole in the Wall Gang Camps network founded by actor Paul Newman. The camp was created to serve as a retreat for critically ill children who deserve the chance to enjoy themselves in a medically safe environment, free of charge.

The Pettys, a family synonymous with generosity, decided to create the camp after the untimely death of their son, Adam, in a tragic race car accident in 2000. After visiting one of the Hole in the Wall Gang Camps in Florida and seeing the joy it brought to the campers, the Pettys felt the children of North Carolina and surrounding states needed such a place of their own. All their hard work—and the hard work of the NASCAR family—paid off this summer. The camp's grand opening was Tuesday, June 15.

Victory Junction is an independent, not-for-profit organization that relies upon the generosity of individuals and corporations. Over the past 2 years, NASCAR has graciously lent its support to Victory Junction through an extensive media campaign and the assistance of NASCAR drivers who have volunteered their time and energy. This summer, the camp will provide much-needed distractions to children afflicted with cancer, asthma, HIV, heart disease, and other diseases.

Much goes into establishing and maintaining a special needs camp. Those that have helped in the planning and building process, and those that are already freely giving their time as medical volunteers, deserve our respect and gratitude. There could be no better tribute to Adam Petty. I commend the Petty family for their dedication to children and public service.

I am so pleased that there is now a local place for some very special children to have an exciting camping experience and well-deserved vacation.

Today, I ask my colleagues and fellow North Carolinians to join me in extending congratulations and support to the Victory Junction Gang Camp. May it enrich the lives of many children in the years to come.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday June 18, 2004

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Leadership Training Institute of America and their inspiring mission of faith for America's youth.

LTIA originated in my home district of northwest Arkansas and has successfully spread throughout the country and even to places as far away as Russia. Their purpose is to provide America's future leaders with a strong Christian foundation of faith in today's secular society.

The program challenges students to develop a Christian worldview and apply that perspective to global conflicts. The students may attend a weeklong seminar once a year—here in our Nation's Capitol—where they meet with their congressional representatives as well as renowned Christian leaders. At the same, the students are encouraged to pursue careers in influential sectors of society.

I believe this training is vital in preparing our future leaders to take their place in society. All too often, our youth are placed in negative, even hostile, environments where they never develop a moral compass or kind spirit. LTIA trains young people to live the Christian faith in an age when such action is not encouraged, and the program gives young people the confidence they need to face a materialistic society.

As the former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." I believe the students involved in the Leadership Training Institute of America are part of our brave future and I applaud their efforts to make America an even greater nation than she is today.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), which was established by the passage of the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 1984. I am proud to have been an original cosponsor of this legislation. It was my honor to act on behalf of my constituents, John and Revé Walsh, who became effective advocates on behalf of missing children's issues after the abduction and murder of their son, Adam, in 1981. John and Revé's hard work and determination helped to create NCMEC, which now serves as the national clearinghouse for information on missing children and the prevention of child victimization.

It was under the strong and distinguished leadership of the late President Ronald Reagan that the NCMEC was established. On

June 13, 1984, President Reagan officially opened the NCMEC in a ceremony at the White House. The President challenged the NCMEC to wake up America and attack the crisis of child abduction. At the time, there was little coordination between the 50 states and the 18,000 law-enforcement agencies. President Reagan encouraged the development of the NCMEC as an institution that could combine the benefits of both the public and private sectors to achieve its goals.

The NCMEC has significantly improved and advanced the coordination of investigation efforts to recover abducted children on the national level in a manner that could not have been accomplished in its absence. The clear effectiveness of this program is evidenced by the remarkable recovery rate of children under this program. In 2004, the NCMEC reported that more than 94 percent of the children reported missing in that year were recovered. Furthermore, the highly publicized AMBER alert program serves as a national tool to create public awareness of abductions and possible threats. Such determined efforts serve an invaluable service to our country in staving off some of the most serious and concerning threats to our Nation's children.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere belief that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children cultivates a culture in this country that appreciates the safety of its children and establishes direct means at recovering children who fall victim to the threats of the people who disregard the laws of basic humanity. It was my honor in supporting the creation of this institution, just as it's my honor to continue to support this program that has had such a positive affect on our Nation. As a member of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, I will continue working to provide and sustain high levels of support for our law-enforcement agencies in their quest to safely retrieve victims of child abduction.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN NOREEN CONSIDINE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, CA, and the U.S. Navy Reserve are exceptional. On June 21, Captain Noreen Considine will retire from the Naval Reserves after 27 years of active and reserve military service. We are fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated military and community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to make their communities and nation a better place to live and work. Captain Considine is one of these individuals.

Over the past 27 years Captain Considine has contributed to the Navy, Marine Corps, and Department of Defense in the areas of medical surveillance, hazardous materials management, preventative medicine, and occupational safety and health matters. She has also trained Navy Hospital Corpsmen in managing hazardous materials and workplace hazards.

Since 1997, Captain Considine has served with the Chief of Naval Operations' Occupational Safety and Health Branch, working with

full-time safety experts on pinpointing the causes of mishaps and targeting remedial actions that maximize force protection. She led the establishment of the Navy's 1,001 Safety Success Stories Project, which now serves as a web based showcase of the U.S. Navy's safety accomplishments. Additionally, Captain Considine developed a multimedia presentation of the Navy's occupational safety and health program for safety professionals and Navy Public Affairs. In fact, in March 2003, she was selected to speak on a panel before the Royal Australian Navy regarding military safety. Over the years, Captain Considine has been called up to active duty over a dozen times when her country needed her, including during Desert Storm.

Captain Considine's awards include two U.S. Navy Commendations and the Alaska Humanitarian Services Medal, earned in 1995 as an Officer in charge of a medical detachment to the Northwest Arctic.

Outside of her military accomplishments, Captain Considine is actively involved as an adult literacy program volunteer, a pro-bono technical book reviewer for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a community advocate for school board accountability and public safety, and much more. As a recent example of her care and service to others, she purchased and shipped several hundred pounds of supplies and personal care items to our military members serving in the War on Terrorism out of her own pocketbook.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Noreen Considine is a woman dedicated to her community and country. Her tireless dedication to the U.S. Navy Reserve and Riverside, CA, has contributed immensely to the betterment of those with whom she comes into contact. For all that Captain Considine has done and given over the years, I am privileged to recognize her accomplishments as she retires from a profession that she gave her heart and soul too, the U.S. Navy Reserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday June 18, 2004

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday June 17, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 260, approving the Journal; "no" on rollcall vote No. 261, agreeing to the Hinchey amendment to H.R. 4568; "no" on rollcall vote No. 262, agreeing to the Sanders amendment to H.R. 4568; "no" on rollcall vote No. 263, agreeing to the Holt amendment to H.R. 4568; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 264, on passage of H.R. 4568, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005; "no" on rollcall vote No. 265, on agreeing to the DeFazio amendment to H.R. 4567; and "no" on rollcall vote No. 266, on agreeing to the Sweeney amendment to H.R. 4567.

HONORING MR. VANCE VAN TASSELL

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 2004

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor an outstanding citizen and a great friend, Mr. Vance Van Tassell, of Granite Bay, California.

Vance was born and raised in Illinois to the son of an auctioneer and pig farmer. Following in his father's footsteps, he also became an auctioneer at a young age. In fact, throughout his college career he worked as an insurance sales auctioneer and wildcat oil man. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Illinois where he also earned a juris doctorate degree.

In the early 1960s, Vance moved to Sacramento to take the California Bar Examination. Since founding the firm of Van Tassell, Fornasero & Wagstaffe in 1963, he has practiced law for over 40 years while maintaining a thriving auction practice as well. As a testament to both the quality of the man and his business, Vance's legal staff averages 18 years of service. One staff member has even been with the firm for 35 years. This loyalty and longevity is easy to understand as Vance has always been generous to a fault with his clients, colleagues, political causes, and many charitable organizations.

Mr. Speaker, more important than his professional success is the fact that Vance is the proud father of five children: Denise, Jeff, Valerie, Victoria and Courtney.

As a devoted Christian, Vance has worshipped at the Capital Christian Center for years, being of service as a volunteer and reaching out to many with the word of the Lord. Recently, the church named him Volunteer of the Year. However, due to his great humility, he was very reluctant to accept any type of acknowledgment for his many efforts.

Vance owns his dream ranch in Point Arena, along California's North Coast, where he has a small herd of longhorn cows with a bull named after his idol, Patton. He loves nothing more than entertaining people there or at his Granite Bay home. All who know him find him to be humble, caring, and giving—in short, remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of good, decent, hard-working citizens like Vance Van Tassell, that America remains a good, decent, hard-working country. Therefore, it is appropriate now to express thanks and appreciation to my good friend, Vance, for his lifetime of bettering the world around him. May our land always be blessed with more men like him.

AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, one of my top priorities in Congress is to help ease the overwhelming tax burden on families and small businesses.

I am also a firm believer in fighting for less government and more freedom, and one of

the underlying tenets of this philosophy is promoting free trade. Free trade policies provide consumers—not government—the opportunity to make their own decisions about how to spend their money.

Americans benefit from free trade and open markets every day. Free trade undeniably delivers a greater choice of goods and services at lower prices to Americans. Free trade also boosts local economies and jobs for our trading partners, which in turn, creates jobs, improves wages and the standard of living for American workers and their families here at home.

When trade grows, income flows. Reducing and eliminating barriers to trade both at home and abroad is vital to a robust U.S. economy. Nearly one in ten jobs in the United States is directly related to the export of American goods and services. I believe it is vitally important to the future of our Nation that we continue to expand trade in an effort to promote economic growth, peace and prosperity at home and abroad.

Because of my commitment to promoting unfettered trade and untying the hands of American workers and businesses I voted for the American Jobs Creation Act. This legislation will end the damaging tariffs that the European Union has imposed on a host of American goods that have hampered free trade and hurt American businesses since they were imposed in March of this year. In addition, it will decrease the tax rate for small businesses, farmers, and manufacturers and increase America's competitiveness with our global trade partners.

The United States has the second higher corporate tax burden in the world. The American Jobs Creation Act is a step in the right direction to making American companies more competitive in the world marketplace.

The American Jobs Creation Act will also help Texans and taxpayers in eight other states achieve equity under our tax code by allowing them to deduct state sales taxes from their federal income tax returns. The current system is clearly unjust, as it allows a federal tax deduction for state and local income and property taxes. Millions of people from those states that rely on sales taxes are clearly disadvantaged and overlooked by the current system and this jobs bill removes this inequity. It is estimated that the lack of this deduction robs Texans of over \$700 million and 16,000 jobs. However, the House passed version only provides this relief for two years. I strongly support a permanent state sales tax deduction, and am hopeful that Congress will make this provision permanent in the future.

Of course, I would ultimately prefer a simpler, more equitable tax-code that treats taxpayers fairly and stops trying to pick winners and losers. All Americans would be better off if Congress repealed both deductions for state and local income tax and the new state sales tax deduction, and put in their place new lower tax rates for both individuals and corporations—and made them permanent. Many of my colleagues keep forgetting that it is not our money; it's the people's money. I am committed to letting Americans keep more of what they earn, without the government stepping in and creating carve-outs, loop-holes and special interest niches.

While this legislation accomplishes several very important goals such as the elimination of tariffs and providing for state sales tax deductibility, it was not all that I had hoped for. I